LETTERS,

TO

A FRIEND,

ON THE

PRUNING

OF

PEACH-TREES

AND

VINES.

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1799.

LETTERS

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LETTER I.

ON THE PRUNING OF PEACH-TREES.

January 15, 1798.

My dear Friend,

I WISH you could read the French language, as it is ſo great a taſk for me to give you in Engliſh thoſe principles which I practiſe, and which I fear I ſhall be unable to render ſo clear as I could wiſh in a language I am ſo little uſed to. After this, you may ſay that you can make me do any thing; and you will ſay right, as far as my wiſhes for your happineſs and content: but, if my wiſhes are great, my know-

ledge is ſmall; and, when I come to keep my promiſe, I feel the more my deficiency.

I ſhall endeavour to be ſhort and clear; and, if it gives you the leaſt pleaſure, I ſhall be fully recompenſed for my trouble.

As ſoon as you have read my letter with attention, go round your garden, and make ſome remarks upon the deficiency or wants of your trees. Read it again; and prepare yourſelf, by a few reflections, to be able to begin your operations. In the courſe of next month, you muſt prune your peach-trees; for, in doing it ſooner, you could not know the good eyes from the bad; and, later, you will meet with many obſtacles and inconveniences from the bloſſom, either in the pruning or in the nailing. Some expoſitures and ſome ſpecies of trees are later than others. Your rule muſt be, when the eyes have ſwelled enough that you may clearly diſtinguiſh the good from the bad ones,

ones, then unnail your tree: put yourſelf in front of it afterwards, and conſider whether it is a young or an old tree; whether healthy or not; for, it is according to its ſtate that you muſt regulate your operations. Its growth muſt indicate what ought to be done. In ſhort, you muſt treat it according to its ſtrength and wants.

This being eſtabliſhed as a firſt rule for you, let me begin my explanation by the trees which have been planted within a year. — If the young ſhoots are weak, you muſt reduce them to two, or four, well placed upon the ſides, and equal in ſtrength, and cut them to four or ſix inches. If you find a ſmall one in the middle, you may leave it; but, if of the ſame ſtrength with thoſe on the ſides, take it off; for, as the middle is always ſufficiently ſtocked, you need only take care of the ſides. If your tree has produced two ſtrong branches well placed on each ſide, you muſt preſerve them, and cut

them to eight or ten inches: you may, at the ſame time, leave ſome ſmall twigs here and there for fruit.

If your tree has but one ſtrong branch and ſome ſmall ones on the ſides, lop off the ſtrong one, and leave two or four of the ſmall. The firſt and chief thing you muſt aim at is, that your tree may have equal branches on each ſide, that the ſap may run equally in it. If it ſhould happen to grow with too much luxuriance, leave your large branches a little longer and even cut, the ſmall ones to four or five inches, as by this means you divide the ſap, and put your tree in a condition to bear fruit ſooner. In this manner proceed the firſt year, and let us go on to the ſecond until the ſixth.

Take care to keep the middle of your tree ſhort, and not to load one ſide more than another: on this principally depends the beauty and continuance of your tree. Lay

for a fundamental point to have your tree divided into two or four good branches, equal in ſtrength, which ought to be, in a manner, like the mother-parents of all the others. It is of theſe you ought to take the moſt particular care, and divide equally upon them the other branches. You may cut them to twelve or ſixteen inches in length, when they are ſtrong enough, provided your tree be pretty healthy. As to thoſe of the middle ſize, the ſtrength of your tree ought to determine the quantity you muſt leave, which you will cut to ſix or eight inches, according to the ſpace they occupy and the diſtance of their bloſſom-buds from the bottom of the branch; for, often they are very far diſtant from it, particularly in certain ſpecies. As fruit is your principal object, you may ſometimes, in its favour, lay aſide theſe rules, and cut the branches a little longer: you muſt, however, obſerve that the beſt bloſſom-buds are thoſe which are double, and have a wood eye between them: the others bloom indeed,

but ſeldom ſet. In the mean time, let not the proſpect of fruit induce you to cut your tree too long, as, by ſo doing, you would ſpoil the middle and bottom of it.

In regard to thoſe little branches, ſo much valued by the greateſt part of gardeners for their fruit, lop them off, if you have any better. I do not mean the largeſt, but thoſe of a middling ſize; for, it is unqueſtionable that a pretty ſtrong branch will give more nouriſhment to its fruit than a weak one can, and that it will ſet as well on the former, contrary to the general idea, "That fruit thrives better on ſmall branches." Therefore it is only a want of intermediate branches that ſhould make you preſerve the ſmall ones. There are, however, ſome exceptions; as, for inſtance:

Firſt, If your tree be too luxuriant, you muſt check its growth by leaving many of the little branches.

Secondly,

Secondly, If your middle-ſize branches have no bloſſom-buds lower than the place where they ſhould be cut, you may leave ſome of them alſo, to have fruit ſooner. But do not miſtake for ſmall branches thoſe little cluſters, which are generally but one or two inches in length: you muſt be very careful to preſerve them, as they will bring very fine fruit.

Thirdly, In caſe you ſhould foreſee a vacancy, cut to one eye the ſmall branches you would otherwiſe have entirely lopped away, from which a good one will generally ſpring: this you will cut again to one eye next year, and keep till you want it. — As to the trees that grow but weakly, they muſt be examined to ſee whether the diſeaſe be not in the roots: in ſuch caſe it muſt be cut down: but, if the root is ſound, you muſt dung it, cut it very ſhort, and only leave the beſt branches. — So much for

what

what relates to the peach-trees in the firſt ſtage; let us now conſider thoſe in the ſecond or third.

I call trees of the ſecond ſtage thoſe that are in all their ſtrength; and, of the third, thoſe that are a little on the decline. Theſe latter cannot be too cautiouſly managed: they muſt be cut ſhort, and only upon the beſt branches. The ſmall ones ought not at all to be preſerved; for, upon old trees, they can only bring very poor fruit.

When, by chance, any ſtrong and healthy branches happen to ſhoot from the ſtem of an old tree, and ſeem capable of renewing it, they muſt be managed with that view, and kept abſolutely to replace the old branches, which muſt be deſtroyed by degrees; but, if they ſhoot from ſome old branches, you muſt cut them off. As long as your old tree bears fruit, it muſt be managed in that manner; but, when it fails, it muſt be cut down.

In

In regard to thoſe of the ſecond ſtage, that are in full ſtrength and produce abundantly, they deſerve all our attention. Moſt gardeners, who work without rules, without reaſoning or thinking of the future, act in a manner that will ſoon ruin their trees; and hence ariſes the notion that the peach-tree will laſt only twelve or fifteen years, which is a groſs miſtake. Peach-trees, well managed, will produce more than forty years.

Not to load the trees too much, but, at the ſame time, to keep them fully ſupplied with branches, is the chief art of pruning, which, though it appears very ſimple, is not, however, without ſome difficulties, and requires attention to, as well in the choice of the branches, the work the tree has done, the ſituation of the bloſſom-buds, and the ſort of fruit, with other circumſtances, on which I will try to eſtabliſh ſome rules. I ſhall not ſpeak of ſome caſes, which cannot be determined

mined but by having the object before you, and which practice alone can teach.

Every one has his method, and directs the pruning of his trees according to his ideas: ſome cut all the branches ſhort; others leave the branches long which they deſign for bearing fruit, and cut other branches ſhort near them to give wood the following year. The modes of the maſters whoſe principles I follow are quite different, and will be found the beſt by thoſe who will make the experiment.

I ſuppoſe that the tree I have to manage has been conducted in its infant ſtate nearly according to my principles, and is regularly well ſtocked (for, if it is defective in ſome parts, it muſt be treated according to its wants). From this ſuppoſition, and finding the tree in a good ſtate, after it has been unnailed, I begin to look for the branches that are worn out, which are eaſily known by their

their thin appearance and the bad twigs they have produced. I take off the worn-out branch, as far as the large branch from which it ſprings, unleſs, in its extent, it ſhould have ſhot ſome good branch; in which caſe I ſhorten it to the ſtrongeſt, if there is nothing in its vicinity to fill up the place. I then proceed to the ſhoots of one year's growth, and lop away all thoſe that have ſhot too much beyond the middling ſize. I do the ſame with all the little ones, unleſs ſome of them ſhould be neceſſary to fill up vacancies, or to be kept as a reſource, in which caſe I cut them to one eye. I except in this the little cluſters of which I have already ſpoken.

This being done, I have only branches nearly equal in ſtrength, and ſee clearly what I have to do. I leſſen the quantity of the remaining branches, of all the branches that have ſhot upon the branch which I have pruned the preceding year, and leave only

only the lower one, as that is always good, owing to the precaution I have taken at the time of pulling away the uſeleſs ſhoots. Thoſe, who ſhould not have done what I am going to adviſe about it for the nipping, muſt chooſe the beſt of the loweſt branches. I go on to the laſt operation, which is the pruning of the branches I have left, and I examine if my tree has been much loaded the preceding year, and of what ſpecies it is, and according to theſe caſes I ſhorten or lengthen its cut. If the tree has been much loaded, I manage it with caution: if it is of the kind of the Magdalen, or the violet, I leave it longer, as trees of thoſe two ſpecies have more vigour than others; but if my tree is of another ſort, and has not ſuffered much from its load, I leave the branch as much as eight inches, if there is room enough for it; but if I find myſelf ſtraightened, — if, under the branches, there is nothing to fill up the place, — I keep it ſhort, and leave it only

three

three or four inches, — it generally happens, by the diſpoſition of the places, that one half of my branches are kept long and the other ſhort: by this I keep up the fulneſs of my tree and do not injure it. I have ſaid that I never left more than one of the ſhoots of thoſe that had grown upon the branch the foregoing year: there are, however, ſome caſes in which I differ; ſuch as, when there is a neighbouring branch which has been killed by the gum, or when I find two good branches, equal in ſtrength, grown at the bottom of the branch, whilſt I have a large vacancy to fill up, I cut them both to five or ſix inches; but if there is no vacancy, and only fear to have a place left bare when the branch is exhauſted, then I trim, as above-mentioned, the higheſt branch, and cut the under one to its firſt eye, to enſure me a good branch for the enſuing year. As to the top, I ſhall be governed by the place it occupies: if my tree covers entirely the wall, I ſhall manage my pruning in a manner to

have always a foot diſtance from the top of the branch trimmed to the border of the coving, that I may be able to nail my new branches: for this purpoſe, I cut off all that has borne fruit in the courſe of the year, and fill up the place with new branches, which the lower part muſt furniſh me. — Some will object to the method of pruning only on one fruit-branch, and not to keep any for wood; that I am liable to have no good wood for the year following; but I cannot experience ſuch an inconvenience.

Firſt, Becauſe I trim ſhort.

Secondly, Becauſe this branch receives the nouriſhment of that which I ſhould have left entirely for wood, and is by that means the ſtronger.

Thirdly, Becauſe I keep always ſome reſources whenever I might want them, cutting

ting ſome branches to one eye only, as I have ſaid before.

I hope this will be clear enough to you; and one year or two of practice will teach you more than theory. If there is any thing which you wiſh to be more clearly explained, command, and you ſhall be obeyed by

Your moſt devoted friend,

* * * * *.

P. S. My family join in love to you, and are all well. Emma grows charmingly. — We all long to ſee you.

LETTER II.

ON THE NIPPING OF PEACH-TREES.

March 20, 1798.

My dear Friend,

I FEEL myſelf very happy, I aſſure you, when you expreſs yourſelf on the pleaſure you begin to feel in pruning your trees. I have been aſtoniſhed at ſome of your remarks, and I ſee clearly that the ſcholar will ſoon teach his maſter; which encourages me; and I muſt not defer giving you ſome principles on another operation, not leſs important than the pruning, though in general the moſt neglected; I mean *the nipping*. It

facilitates every other operation, and gives theſe advantages to the fruit, *viz.* the certainty, the goodneſs, and the beauty.

The beſt time for taking off the young ſhoots is in the months of April and May, when the buds are formed enough that you may fix your choice, and may be eaſily pulled off without employing a knife. There are two other operations, called *pinching* and *ſtopping*, which are done at the ſame time. I will particularize them both.

About the end of April, it is high time to look at your trees, and pull off every ſhoot growing out of its proper place; I mean all thoſe which grow before or behind each branch. About a fortnight afterwards, you muſt look them over a ſecond time: this is of the greateſt conſequence, as each eye will have ſhot at leaſt one branch; and ſuch a quantity of branches would ruin your tree and cauſe great confuſion.

The firſt thing to be conſidered is, whether your fruit be ſet on the top or at the bottom, or whether it is all ſet from top to bottom; and my rule is, never to leave more than three or four of the fruit on each branch, and rather leſs.

If the fruit is ſet in the bottom of the branch, or from the top to the bottom, I prune again upon the fruit-branch; that is, the higheſt of thoſe I intend to leave; and then I leave the higheſt branches to draw up the ſap and nouriſh the fruit, and the two loweſt oppoſite to one another; or elſe only one oppoſite to that of the top I have left. As to all the others, when joined to the fruit, I pinch off the hearts of them to the thickneſs of two leaves, which is called ſtopping. As to thoſe that are not united to any fruit, I pull them off entirely.

If

If the fruit has ſet only at the top, I leave the upper one, and pull off all the others, (or pinch them, if united with ſome fruit,) except the two loweſt, which I leave for pruning the ſpring following; and by theſe means I have always good branches at the bottom.

If the branch has kept none of its fruit, I cut it back to the ſecond branch that has ſprung from it; that is to ſay, I keep only the two loweſt; unleſs the great vigour of the tree obliges me to leave more to conſume and divide the ſap.

As to the branches which I have left ſhorter, (as my object in that was, to procure me better wood,) I keep only two of thoſe which are the laſt grown, *viz.* the higheſt and the loweſt oppoſite, and tear off all the others if they have no fruit; but, if they have any, I pinch them as I have ſaid. But, if the branch has no fruit and the tree has but little vigour,

or

or if I do not want two branches to fill up a vacancy, I cut this branch upon the loweſt, which I then keep alone for the following year.

If a large branch ſhould ſpring out, either from thoſe I have pruned within the year or from the body of the tree itſelf, I act according to its wants and ſtrength. If it can hurt thoſe next to it, or if it is uſeleſs, I cut it off; but if it can become uſeful, either to fill up a vacancy or prevent it, or to conſume the too-abundant ſap, in theſe caſes I pinch it to four or five leaves; and, as from each leaf there will ſpring a new branch, I ſhall ſoon find four or five branches of a middling ſize, amongſt which I ſhall chooſe, at the firſt nailing, ſuch as will ſuit me beſt. As for the ſmall ones that may ſhoot from the old wood, I pull them away, unleſs they be placed in a way to fill up a vacancy, or that I can foreſee that they may be a reſource to me in future; but I keep the little cluſters wherever I find them.

You

You muſt take great care of the ſtem of the tree: it very often happens that ſome branches will ſpring up from it very ſeaſonably to fill up the place of others that begin to be exhauſted; you muſt preſerve them with great care, and, if they ſhoot with too much vigour, pinch to five or ſix leaves, which will divide the ſap.

As to the too-luxuriant branches, which are known by their green colour, ſpotted with red, and by their ſize, they muſt all be cut off wherever they are found, unleſs there be an extreme want of them to fill up a vacancy, and there be no other reſource left to you: but, in that caſe, they muſt be pinched to five or ſix leaves, and pinched again a ſecond time in the month of June, upon the ſmall ones that ſpring from them: by this means you check them in dividing the ſap.

It often happens that from one eye, particularly at the top of the branches pruned,

two

two or three branches will ſpring at the ſame time. In that caſe, one only ſhould be left. Make choice of the one that is placed beſt, and tear off the others gently.

When you find two peaches growing together as twins, if there is one larger than the other, as is generally the caſe, you muſt detach the ſmaller one; but do it with great care, for fear of ſhaking the other. If they are both of the ſame ſize, you may either leave them or take them off, *ad libitum*; for, they never will come to any thing.

Among the trees planted within the year, if one ſide ſhoots with much more vigour than the other, the too-vigorous ſhoots ſhould be cut off, to make the ſap go back to the other ſide; and, when a branch grows much larger than the other, you muſt either cut it off or pinch it, according to the want of the tree.

If

If a young tree is vigorous, take off a great deal leſs of its load, at the time of its nipping, than from the weak one, as, with the former, you muſt take away only the eyes ill placed upon the branches you had left at the firſt trimming, keeping all the collateral ones, as much, however, as room can be found to place them: therefore, never pull off nor cut back upon young trees, as you muſt do upon thoſe that are in full bearing. As to the old ones, you muſt not only take away all that are ill placed, but even what is weak to a certain degree, to ſtrengthen the reſt. Confine yourſelf to a ſmall number of the beſt branches, and leave only a ſmall quantity of fruit.

When a tree or a branch is too full of vigour, after it has been pinched, you muſt preſerve the two loweſt of the new branches that grow between the leaves; for, very often, in this caſe, if the top of the tree prevails

vails too much, you muſt cut it upon the ſmall branches, that will renew it.

I wiſh I could have made my principles on the nipping as clear as I find it important; for, I conſider it nearly as much as the pruning itſelf; and, to render it clearer to you in ſuch caſe, which perhaps I ſhould not have mentioned, I will lay down as a baſis the views in which it is done, as that will teach you more than a longer detail.

I leave the uppermoſt eyes, to let the ſap run up and nouriſh the fruits which are on the branch, and with the intention to cut, at the time of the pruning, all that ſame branch to the lowermoſt; except I want my tree to run up: but, if the tree is at its full height, as I have no other view but that of keeping it full, I never ſuffer a branch to run up but as little as I can, to keep the bottom more garniſhed, and I cut it back to the uppermoſt over-fruit which I left; and, if my tree is

not luxuriant, I leave no uſeleſs branches. By doing ſo, I give more nouriſhment to thoſe I keep. —— Farewel! You ſhall ſoon have another letter from me, as I am obliged to finiſh this in haſte.

Your devoted friend,

* * * * *.

LET-

LETTER III.

ON THE NAILING OF PEACH-TREES AND GATHERING THE FRUIT.

May 18, 1798.

My dear Friend,

THE latter end of next month, you will have another operation, which is but trifling, when the nipping has been done in its proper time, and according to the rules given to you about it; I mean the *nailing*. It conſiſts in ſetting the branches at proper diſtances, and covering with care the fruits by the leaves. You muſt take care alſo never to let the branches of your tree croſs each other without an abſolute neceſſity. The

greateſt defect peach-trees are ſubject to is, the want of branches; therefore it is the only thing that can make one diſpenſe with this rule. This firſt nailing is generally done in the month of June, or later, as the ſeaſon directs.

In about a month or ſix weeks afterwards, a ſecond nailing muſt be performed, which conſiſts only in adding a tie more to each branch, and in examining whether ſome new branches have not ſhot ſince the former nailing; if ſo, either leave them or lop them off, as you will find it neceſſary.

If ſome of thoſe that have been tied at the firſt nailing, having been found next to a luxurious branch, (which, of courſe, ſhould have been taken off,) are become themſelves luxuriant by the overflow of the ſap, as it often happens to ſtrong trees, this branch muſt be taken away, or at leaſt cut as low as the want of thoſe which may have ſprung from it, in caſe it ſhould be wanted.

This

This is very near all that need be ſaid about it to a gardener of your intelligence. I will only add the mode of uncovering the fruits and the proper time of gathering them.

As much neceſſity as there has been to keep the fruit covered with its leaves till their maturity, to ſhelter them from the ſcorching beams of the ſun, and give them more nouriſhment, as much do they want them now to perfect their flavour, and to give that fine colour which makes their greateſt beauty: but it would be dangerous to uncover them all at once; it muſt be done at three different times. The time to begin is when they whiten a little; you ſhould then remove ſome of the leaves on the weſt or north ſide, according to the aſpect of your tree; three or four days after, take off ſome more on the oppoſite; and finally, in as many days, take away thoſe that are in front. Soon afterwards, the fruit gets a fine colour and ripens. You may

gather it when it aſſumes a yellowiſh hue on the ſide ſheltered from the ſun, or elſe you may take the fruit in your hand and give it a gentle pull; if ripe to its point, it will drop immediately; but you muſt be careful not to ſqueeze it with your fingers, which would hurt it conſiderably. If it is to be ſent to a diſtance, it muſt be plucked by a little ſtronger pull, though but very little, otherwiſe you would gather it before it is come to maturity.

There is one material thing to obſerve in the above operations; which is, to pull the leaves gently, and without any ſtrength, and to tear them ſoftly with the nails, or elſe you would hurt the eye of the branch to which they adhere, and would prevent the bloſſom-bud from forming itſelf for the next year.

Now I have done, and you will ſee the peach in its full maturity. Let me now aſk you a queſtion, — Which do you like the beſt,

beſt, the fruit or the tree? and your anſwer will tell me if ever you will be a gardener.

Your devoted friend,

* * * * *.

LET-

LETTER IV.

ON THE PRUNING AND NIPPING OF VINES.

My dear Friend,

I FEEL myſelf flattered by what you write to me, and I am glad to think I have given you the pleaſure which you ſay you have experienced. You aſk my conſent to have my letters printed. Conſider ſeriouſly the ridicule I lay myſelf liable to in giving to the public ſuch bad Engliſh. You muſt take it all upon yourſelf; and if you think, as you ſaid, that in ſo doing you may give pleaſure to many amateurs, I put aſide all my objections,

jections, and will not hesitate a moment in complying with it, but shall feel happy if I can convey, in this little work, any sense of the gratitude which I feel, towards your humane and generous country, for the protection it has afforded my unhappy countrymen.

And, to give you a farther proof of my ready compliance with your desires, I will give you, in this letter, a few general rules on the management of the vine.

ON THE PRUNING OF THE VINE.

The pruning of the vine should be done when the leaves begin to fall, or at least before the month of February; but, in doing it early, you clean at once the vine house or walls of the large quantity of leaves the vine has produced, and you strengthen it with that portion of sap which would otherwise have been lost by flowing into the wood which must be taken off afterwards.

The

The firſt thing to be conſidered is, the ſtate of the ſtem of the vine: if the twigs it has ſhot are ſtrong, you may leave more load to your tree; that is to ſay, more branches: if, on the contrary, they are weak, a great deal leſs muſt be left.

This thing duly conſidered, you muſt begin by taking off all the weak twigs that have ſprung up on the old wood; unleſs you ſhould foreſee that ſome of them will be wanted to cut upon: in this caſe, you ſhould cut it to one ſingle eye. You muſt next conſider whether the vine has reached the height it may go to, or if it is to be carried higher, in which caſe you muſt preſerve the uppermoſt branch; but, on the contrary, you muſt always take off the cutting of the year preceding, and prune upon the under-branch left for that purpoſe.

If,

If, therefore, a vine is grown to its proper height, you muſt begin by cutting off the branches upon which you had pruned the preceding year as well as all thoſe that have ſprung from it.

This is the rule to follow, which is ſubject to very few deviations. Cut the upper branch to four, the under one to two, eyes. There will ſpring from your upper branch four branches, of which ſhould be taken off, at the firſt nipping, all thoſe that have no fruit. As to the others, you muſt ſtop them in the manner I ſhall explain when at the article of the nipping: as that upper branch is to be taken off the year following, you muſt only now think about fortifying the fruit, and conſuming no more of the ſap than is neceſſary for this end; for, you muſt throw in the under-branch all the ſap you do not abſolutely want. This under-branch, that has been cut to two eyes, produces generally two good branches, which

muſt

muſt not be ſtopped till very late, that they may make the choiceſt wood poſſible for the year following, upon which you are to cut as upon this one, *viz.* the upper branch to four eyes to be taken away afterwards, and the under one to two eyes to fill its place.

There are, however, ſome caſes that may induce you to keep the upper branch a year longer, *viz.* if you wiſh to carry your vine higher up; as if, in ſpite of all your cares, your under-branch had not ſhot good branches; for, the ſtrongeſt branches are here always to be preferred.

In caſe the ſtem of the vine ſhould be quite ſtout enough, you may alſo leave a greater load upon it, not by pruning the branches to a greater length, but by leaving a larger quantity of them, if there is room for them to be tied.

Particular care muſt be taken to cut a full inch above the upper eye, and in a ſlope on the oppoſite ſide.

The nipping of the vine is very material, and ſhould be done every week or fortnight at leaſt; for, the vine grows amazingly faſt, and, if it is not often trimmed, you will ſoon find it in great diſorder. — Theſe are the general principles upon this matter.

Firſt, All that grows upon the old wood muſt be pulled off from the beginning, unleſs it ſhould be ſome branch at the bottom which might be wanted to cut upon. As the grape comes out at the ſame time as the new branch, if the four eyes of your ſuperior branch do not ſhew any fruit, leave only the upper one, and the loweſt on the oppoſite ſide, in caſe you may want it; if, on the contrary, ſome one of them ſhould have fruit, take off thoſe that have none, and ſtop the others. Two leaves above

above the fruit there will immediately ſpring out another bud, which you will ſtop again to two or three leaves, and ſo on: by theſe means, you are conſtantly fortifying your fruit, by checking the ſap which runs always towards the ends. If the four buds ſhewed fruits, ſtop them all equally. In regard to the under branches, it is quite another thing: your chief aim is the wood for the next year; therefore, ſtop it; but very late, *viz.* in the month of Auguſt, and only once.

You muſt always leave the main bud which grows on each branch; but thoſe that ſpring out conſtantly between every leaf ſhould be pinched off as ſoon as they have grown to an inch; but this muſt be done with great caution, for fear of hurting the eye on which your wood depends the year following. Leave your fruit ſheltered by the leaves, and uncover it a ſhort time only before it ſhall be ar-

rived at its maturity, that it may get the fine yellow tinge which adds flavour to its beauty.

Your devoted friend,

* * * * *.

THE END.

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